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**U.S. COMMERCE SECRETARY DON EVANS
ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF FINAL CENSUS 2000 NUMBERS**

Today U.S. Commerce Secretary Don Evans accepted the recommendation of the Executive Steering Committee on Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation Policy (ESCAP) and Acting Census Bureau Director Bill Barron to send the actual Census 2000 enumeration data, unadjusted by statistical methods, to the states for the purpose of redistricting.

Secretary Evans said, "In reaching this decision we required and followed a process that was open, reasonable and fair, and took full account of the views of experts."

Secretary Evans praised the work done by Census Bureau professionals and the almost 1 million temporary workers who mobilized to make this census a success. "Census 2000 heralded the idea, 'Quality Counts.' We have achieved a quality count."

"My attention now turns to 2010 and the preparations for the next census. We must build on the innovations and also review the initiatives that did not meet our expectations. We must work to build a national consensus on census participation," Secretary Evans said.

The Census Bureau is required by law to send Census 2000 numbers to the states by April 1 for the purpose of redistricting.

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